



What is GRACE?

INTRODUCTION

It has been generally said and accepted by many, in the religious circle, that Grace is the unmerited, undeserved favour of God shown to Man and that you do not have to do anything at all in order to have it. On the surface value such a definition can pass but with God we do not walk on the surface but in the deep. Subtlety lieth on the surface, while truth is found in the deep. The things of God is deep (**1 Cor 2:10-11**) and deep calleth unto the deep thereof (**Ps 42:7**). And because many today are not like the Berean Christians (**Acts 17:10-12**), they prefer to run with shallow definitions put out by the world and falsely religious men that appeal to their lustful senses and flesh (**2 Tim 4:2-5**). We are in a time of great deception and cannot afford to take for granted foundational definitions and meanings of things upon which our faith is based and hinged on (**1 Cor 2:4-5**).

As it were, religious leaders of the Church as an organization (CAO) have taken advantage of this lopsided definition of grace, which they teach, to keep men lazy/slothful, seeking and expecting magical interventions for acquiring material gains in this world without lifting a finger. You will observe that a substitution of this their dictionary meaning of grace in the various places that the word “grace” is mentioned in the New Testament (N.T.) is a misfit and does not really accentuate/support the veracity of such a definition. For example: **2 Cor 12:9** “My grace (my unmerited favour) is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness”; **Jn 1:17** “For the law was given by Moses, but grace (the unmerited favour) and truth came by Jesus Christ”; **1 Pet 5:5** “for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace (unmerited favour) to the humble”, Etcetera, Etcetera. This CAO definition does not fit in the overall meaning and usage of grace needed for our salvation in the Bible, instead it rather gives an erroneous understanding of what grace is about. It is the meaning of a word that you have that determines your understanding of it thereafter.

Though the meaning of Grace can be approached from various shades of perception or contextual view point yet the spiritual understanding of it required for our salvation shall be our main focus. In this literature, we shall be dealing mainly with the Grace that bringeth about salvation which came by Jesus Christ- **Jn 1:17; 1 Pet 1:9-13**. We will be searching the Bible in order to extract the meaning of Grace in this context not as it has been generally defined by the CAO as being unmerited favour, but as we are taught from the testimonies of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. For too long many have been too lazy to search the scriptures to see for themselves what the preachers have been telling them whether they be true or not so that we can wholeheartedly believe- **2 Tim 2:15**. So that our faith may no longer be based on the wisdom of men as it is generally today, but in the power and wisdom of God, as it ought to be- **1 Cor 2:5**.

GRACE DEFINED

We shall bring out the definition of grace from several N.T. writings as follows;

2 Cor 12:9 My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **Vr. 10** for when I am weak, then am I strong

Phil 4:11-13 (Vr.12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **Vr. 13** I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me” (That is grace) (**Ps 18:29**)

1 Cor 3:9 For we are labourers together with God (So therefore we need the grace of God to labour with Him - **Jam 4:6**)

Jn 5:19 The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise (He did all by grace)

Jn 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (without the grace of Christ at work in you ye can do nothing)

2 Tim 2:1 My son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Phil 2:12-13 (Vr.12 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **Vr. 13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do his good pleasure. (this is what grace means)

Colo 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly (How?) than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1 Pet 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith (that is grace) unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Hebr 13:20-21 (Vr.21 Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (this is the meaning of Grace)

Grace is the strength or power of Christ made available to the humble to enable him to do the work of God through faith by the Spirit. Our walk in the Spirit is by grace. Gal 5:16,25

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is his divine enablement by which we are empowered to do the will of God by faith. Grace is needed for us to do the work of God according to His will; otherwise it would be done contrary to His will as it were. We labour by grace in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our walk of faith is by grace. **2 Cor 5:7; Hebr 11:6**

You cannot fulfill God's work by the arm of flesh [Christ's grace = Christ's strength] rather God's work can only be fulfilled through God's strength that He makes available for it through our Lord Jesus Christ. Impossibilities unto men become possible by grace. God working in you and through you is what grace is all about. **Mk 10:25-27**

GRACE VS SALVATION

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Question: What is the gift of God being talked about here? Is it the "by grace" or the "are ye saved"?

Question: By what are ye saved? By Grace

Question: Is Salvation the free gift of God or is it Grace? Your answer to this seeming simple question determines your overall understanding of the scriptures thereafter. If you get it wrong your understanding slides into an error curve/path, but if you get it right then a good solid foundation is laid in the truth upon which you can build on thereafter. **Mtt 7:24-27; Mtt 22:29**

Salvation or to be saved is by Grace. But how can you be saved if your understanding of what the grace that brings about salvation is misrepresented/misconstrued to you even as the CAO hath done in their teachings till date.

Grace is the free gift of God and by it through faith comes the promised gift of God which is the Holy Ghost through whom we obtain the reward gift of God which is Eternal life at the end. **Rom 5:15-17; Rom 6:23**

In the New Testament the coming or commencement of the grace that is by Christ Jesus is tied/rooted/linked to the finished work of Christ upon the cross. "It is finished" means that the atoning, sacrificial work required to be done that secured Grace from God for us to access salvation, had been accomplished by Christ. **Hebr 4:14-16; Mtt. 27:50-51**

Grace came as a result of Christ's finished work upon the cross, which was required by God for us to walk in, in order for us to be saved and manifest the works of Christ while we are yet on this earth. Everyone that bears the testimony of Jesus Christ on earth is working by Grace. **Rev. 12:11, 17; Rev 19:10**

So though Christ gives us this Grace freely yet he paid the ultimate price for it (to purchase it) with his life. **You cannot be saved except you receive this grace in Christ from God. Tit 2:11; Mk 16:15-16**

Jn. 1:17 but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

It is by Grace that you work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **Phil 2:12**

Without GRACE there can be no SALVATION. Grace precedes Salvation, that is, you receive Grace in order to get salvation. **Eph 2:8-10; I Pet 1:5, 9-10**

Tit 2:11 For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men (but not received by all men. Why? For all men have not faith through which grace is accessed-**2 Thess 3:2; Jn 1:11-12**)

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

So that when we receive this Grace by which we are saved after we have believed, we can also get the promised Holy Ghost, then we can be able to do the work/will of God as it is done in heaven here on earth. **Mtt 6:10.**

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

I Pet 1:3-13 (Vr.10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: **Vr.13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Without doing good works by grace we cannot enter into the eternal salvation of God at the end. So as a Christian you have to be very mindful/careful to maintain good works in Christ till the end. **Mtt 24:13; Titus 3:7-8,14; Rev 2:25-26**

So because of the misleading definition of grace, its understanding in relationship with Salvation is also misconstrued. How? Believers are not able to unambiguously tell which of them is free or is the free gift of God unto mankind. They generally say it is salvation whereas it is grace instead. This is a calculated maligning of the truth in order that the lie (the leaven) may be introduced in the foundation of our Christian faith where grace and salvation is concerned as important as they are to us (**Ps 11:3; I Cor. 5:6-7**). You can refer to the author's other literature on that topic in his works titled "Salvation is not free" for detailed exposition.

WHEN DID GRACE AND TRUTH COME BY CHRIST JESUS?

Jn 1:17 Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (How and When?)

This particular Grace was obtained for us as a result of the finished work of Christ on the cross and the understanding of the knowledge of the Truth came with the release of the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of Truth). All these became possible and available to us, after Jesus was glorified (that is after his resurrection). **Jn 7:39; Jn 12:16; Lk 24:44-45**

Jn 16:17 It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

It was Grace and Truth that Christ obtained for us on the Cross. It is with this Grace and Truth that we by doing good works till the end shall obtain Salvation . Why? because our work shall be judged whether we qualify by it to receive eternal salvation that comes at the end. That is why the good works that we do in Christ is by grace and not by our own strength for this salvation to be ours from God at the very end. Our works shall be tried by fire to find out whether it be done by grace or not. **Rev 2:23; Rev 20:12; I Cor 3:12-15; 2 Cor 5:9-10**

By having faith in the finished work of Christ upon the cross, God justifies the Believer and imputes righteousness upon him. Subsequently, by receiving grace through this faith one humbly submits to being baptized into the death of our Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins unto being saved and to continue therein. **Acts 2:37-38**

Mk 16:15-16 (Vr. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

That he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. It was the grace of God that was sufficient for Christ that enabled him to pass through the crucifixion ordeal that he went through on behalf of mankind. It was by God's own grace upon the captain of our salvation that he was able to go through these sufferings in order to be our perfect example. **Heb 2:9-10**

This same grace is made available to us that we might be able to pass through everything that the world and the enemy will throw at us- tribulations, persecutions, sufferings, etc. Christ's grace is sufficient enough to see us through all. **Jn 16:33; Phil 1:28-29; I Pet 5:10.** Whenever a Christian seeks not his own will to be done but the will of God in whatsoever difficult, strenuous or seemingly impossible situation or circumstance in life that he finds himself in, then the grace of God avails for him as it were (**Lk 22:41-44**). There is God's grace and Christ's grace all available for us in its fullness-grace for grace. **Jn 1:16; Jn 14:23**

Christ wrought Grace for us on the cross and the Spirit of truth that he gives to us in baptism is the proof of ownership or the purchase receipt. With the Grace he gives us, we can then obtain Salvation. At the gate of heaven you must present your purchase receipt in order to receive the reward gift of Eternal life. **Eph 1:13-14**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ came even as a result of the coming of the Kingdom of God to dwell in us. Why?

Mtt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

The kingdom of God came into our hearts in order that we by grace through faith might do the will of God here on earth as it is done in heaven. The will of God can only be operated by the children of God on this earth by Grace and truth.

Jn 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. **Vr.24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

GRACE CUM WORK

There is what I call grace-work and there is self-work. The former is one done by the leading and enablement of the Holy Spirit (by the grace of God) while the latter is done by the arm of flesh or according to the dictates of the law. **Mk 7:6-9; Mtt 6:32-33; Jn 6:27; Mtt 11:28-30**

The kind of works that you do stands out as a witness for you that you are either of God or of the devil. That's why it is very important. **Mtt 7:16,20; Jn 3:19-21; Jn 10:37-38; I Jn 2:29; I Jn 3:7-8**

Self-work is flesh work, which is as an abomination (sin) before God. Why? Because sin dwells in the flesh. So the works that the flesh does is sinful. That is why it is called the works of the flesh. **Gal 5:19-21**. But Grace-work is Christ's work which is righteousness before God. Why? Because grace is operated by the Spirit (**Rom 8:26-28**). So the works that the Spirit does in and through your spirit is righteousness. That is why it is called the fruit of the Spirit. Without having the Spirit you cannot operate Grace as it ought to be and without having received Grace you cannot have the Spirit. God has always desired for those that will serve and worship Him to do so in spirit and in truth; through the glorified Christ that became possible because he made available grace and truth. **Jn 4:23-24; Jn 1:17; Zech 4:6; Isa 64:6**

And that Grace is contrasted or compared to self work or the work that is by strict observance of the Law in **Eph 2:9-10 (Vr.9** not of works, lest any man should boast (Self-work). **Vr.10** For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works (works of Grace), which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (doing this grace-work as children of grace).

The work mentioned in **Eph 2:10** is done by faith in the finished work done by God in Christ – “It is finished”- **Jn 19:30; Jn 17:4-5; I Pet 1:19-20**. Not the works of the law by which no man can be justified before God. So when the scripture says in **Rom 11:6** – “And if by grace then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work”.

The “works” being referred to here is the works that is according to the law not the works that is by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross; you need to understand the difference. **Gal 3:5**.

Unfortunately, many have erroneously used or misunderstood that scripture (**Rom 11:6**) to imply that grace is anti-work (or at variance with work) causing many to use grace as an excuse for slothfulness since they falsely assume that they do not need to do anything in order to get this “unmerited favour” of God; but this is far from the truth. Grace is not the opposite of work nor is it doing no work at all. Rather Grace is meant to enable you to work, that is, to do the work of God here on earth as it is done in heaven. **Grace is the work of faith** without which faith becomes useless or dead. **Jam 2:20,26; Jn 5:17; Rom 14:23**

Grace is work but one done by faith in Christ Jesus. So Grace is not anti-work but is that kind of work that is acceptable in the sight of God unlike self-work. You diligently seek God in spirit and in truth by grace. Rom 9:31-33; Hebr 11:6

2 Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works (self-works nor by the works of the law) but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (How? **Rev 13:8**). **Vr 10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus

Christ who hath abolished death (by his death and resurrection) and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

To acknowledge that you are a sinner, ask for mercy, seek for forgiveness and knock on the door of the salvation of God through Christ Jesus is work. And it takes a broken, humble and contrite heart that receiveth grace to do this. **1 Pet 5:5; Ps 34:18**

Work entails a doing and if this is not work then I wonder what else is; because many are yet to do this in order to enter into the grace that has been made available for us in Christ Jesus and that is why they still remain in their sins, stubbornly claiming that they are better than most Believers, being self righteous. **Lk 18:9-14; Mtt 21:31-32**

Asking is work, seeking is work, knocking is work, to believe is work; if you do not do it you will not receive and many are obstinate about doing it. **Mtt 7:7-8; Jn 8:24; Mtt 6:33; Jn 3:17-18**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is the divine enablement by which we are empowered to do the will of God by faith; to do the work of God according to the sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ that we have believed in the gospel.

Jn 6:29 This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. **Vr. 40** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life:

If you do not get to see the Son by believing on him, the Grace of God cannot avail for you. And it is by the mercy that the Father extends unto a man that He opens your understanding to see Christ. **Jn 12:37-41; Mtt 13:11,15; Jn 5:39-40; Mtt 16:15-17]**

Question: How do you see the Son? **By faith you see and hear, while by grace you speak and do. Jn 5:30; Jn 8:38; Lk 11:28**

Mtt 11:27 and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

When God shows you mercy (that is have mercy on you- **Rom 9:15-16**) when you have genuinely asked for it in repentance with a humble and a contrite spirit (**Lk 18:13-14**) then He reveals His Son to you (by faith you see) and thereafter bestow upon you His grace by which you become saved and begin to walk in Christ till the end. **Mtt 24:13; Rev 2:25-26**

We will be rewarded according to our works and not according to our faith. It is by faith that we work after believing. For any work done without faith henceforth is sin. **Grace is work done by faith. Mtt 16:27; Rom 14:23; Hebr 11:6; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev 2:23; Rev 22:12**

Any good works that is not done by grace shall not receive eternal reward rather at best it shall receive earthly reward instead. **Mtt 6:1-4; Lk 6:24; Lk 14:12-14; Mtt 25:34-40**

Your faith is expected by God to produce works ordained from the beginning by God and assigned to you or programmed for you to walk therein after you have been saved (How?) by grace through that faith. **Grace is found in the doing of faith** and not merely in the hearing of faith. **That which we heard by Faith, we speak and do by Grace. Rom 2:13; Eph 4:29**

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ps 62:12 Unto thee O Lord belongeth mercy; for thou renderest to every man according to his works.

Jer 17:10 I the Lord search the heart, try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.

Rom 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds.

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

That's why we have to be extremely careful in order to do and maintain good works wherein we have been called. How do we do these good works? Only by grace. If you work according to grace you shall receive the reward of eternal life at the end. Grace being Christ working in and through you as it were. **Eph 2:8,10; 1 Pet 1:6-13; Mtt 16:27**

When you believe by faith, you need grace to do that which you believe (i.e. you need grace to release/manifest/demonstrate your faith)

FAITH + WORKS = GRACE = SALVATION = ETERNAL LIFE

Therefore, Grace is a faith-work or the work of faith. Faith that is perfected by works can be said to be Grace. By faith a man is justified but by Grace a man is saved. **Jam 2:22; Hebr 5:7-9; Rom 4:16; Lk 18:9-14**
Grace is work but one done by faith in Christ Jesus. So Grace is not anti-work but is that kind of work that is acceptable in the sight of God. **Rom 9:30-32**

By grace through faith we do good works that shall be judged acceptable by Christ at his appearing unto your salvation and receipt of the reward of eternal life.

Work out your own salvation (How? by Grace) with fear and trembling. **Phil 2:12**

When the disciples of Christ asked him "who then can be saved?" he replied in **Mtt 19:26** With men this is impossible; but with God (by grace) all things are possible. The young rich man presented his works by the law to Christ but Christ told him that was not the way to gain eternal life but rather than following him by grace and not to depend on works that riches can bring about as it were. Any work done on the basis of what money can bring about rather than what the grace of God at work in you can produce is not an acceptable good work before God and therefore has no eternal reward for it in the form of eternal life. So

stop trusting/relying on money but on grace instead to do the work of the gospel of Christ. **Mtt 19:16-22; Mk 10:24**

The kingdom of God within you can only be operated by faith through grace. For only by such would the service we render therein be acceptable to God, no other way- **Heb 12:28; Jn 4:23-24**

Don't break your head with thinking over God's work, only humbly ask for His grace concerning that work, receive and do it by faith. This is the way that the Just is expected to live. **Rom 1:17; Gal 3:10-14; Mtt 10:19-20**

The work of God is a grace-work (Spirit led work) not an arm of flesh work (self-work or work of the Law).
Rom 8:14; Jn 1:12

By the arm of flesh, no man can prevail. Only the grace of God is able to provide what is needed for the life we are called to live. **Phil 4:19**. Therefore the Master says "Take no thought for your life" for it is no longer yours but his. **Mtt 6:24-34; I Cor 6:19-20; Gal 2:20-21; Rom 14:7-9**

It is by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are able to do the preordained good works that God hath purposed that we walk in in Christ. Without grace your walk in Christ shall be according to the flesh and not the Spirit and such shall definitely fail you along the way before the end. Therefore receive grace to work and walk in Christ. **2 Cor 6:14-18; Gal 5:16, 25; Eph 2:8,10**

IS GRACE FOR EVERYBODY?

Question: Does everyone (both righteous and unrighteous) qualify to receive the grace of God? No, rather it is those that do good and worketh righteousness that are candidates of his grace. How?

Acts 10:34 The Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
Vr. 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

You have to qualify, before grace can be given to you and that is why the "unmerited favour" general definition of it is being called to question here. If you do not believe the word of truth and believe in Christ thereafter in order to acknowledge, confess, repent and forsake your sins you are not a qualified candidate for receipt of this grace. Grace is not for the wicked, the evil or for the proud unrepentant sinner and therefore it is not for everybody. It is available for everybody but it is not everybody that receives it as it were. **Lk 18:9-14**

Grace is strictly for the humble and not for just anybody. It is for the humble that doeth good – **I Pet 5:5; Lk 18:14; Prov 12:2; Prov 18:22**. Grace is not made available to the proud instead God resisteth such. Grace is given to those that walketh uprightly and not for the wicked sinners . No sinner has the grace of God at work in him. **Ps 84:11-12**

Jam 4:6-10 (Vr.6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. **Vr.7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil (by grace), and he will flee from you. **Vr.8** Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. **Vr.10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

If God is not pleased with you He cannot give you of His grace. And for you to please Him you must have faith- **Hebr 11:6**. Grace is given conditionally; it is for those that truly want to please God, who want to live a life of holiness and righteousness in the service of Him (**Lk 1:74-75; Hebr 12:28**). Whereas, it is the love of God that is unconditional and available to everyone that is ready to receive it also through Christ Jesus. **Jn 3:14-18, 19-21; Rom 5:8**

Grace is released by God upon men on the condition of your obedience to Him and His instructions in order to enable you to carry them out in the manner He wants it to be done. The grace of God is known in the truth of God. So those that do not have the word of God, that is, the truth abiding/dwelling in them cannot be said to have the grace of God upon them – **Colo 1:5,6**. So you need the truth for grace to avail for you. **Jn 8:32**. Those that have grace do the truth always. Those that delight in the law of God, meditating day and night therein, are given the grace of God in order for them to do it always. The carnally minded, those sold under sin, cannot do the law of God which is spiritual in nature and therefore the grace of God does not avail unto them nor does it abide with them. **Rom 7:14; Rom 8:5-8; Ps 1:1-3**

Without Grace you cannot serve God acceptably – **Heb 12:28**. So Grace is for those that are saved to serve, meaning boldness and power comes with grace. Those who serve by grace find the boldness of grace developing in their lives; Peter is a good example of one that received grace after the Holy Ghost came upon him before then he relied upon the arm of his flesh. **Mtt 26:33-35,69-75; Acts 4:13,29-32**

Grace is for the lowly and meek at heart (and not for the high minded and proud) who carry their cross daily in the service of Christ. Without Grace you cannot carry the yoke of Christ, nor be able to do his sayings/commandments, as many are not able to do today, declaring that it is not possible to be perfect nor for one to be able to obey the sayings of Jesus Christ to the letter. So instead they run to and cling unto the Old Testament to do the Law, which is of hard labour and heavy laden, for which Christ came to deliver us from. Yet men continue to be deceived by the CAO to continue in them unto bondage still. **Mtt 23:2-4; Gal 3:12-14; Acts 15:10-11; Prov 3:34**

Mtt 11:28-30 (Vr.29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: **Vr.30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Hebr 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. (To build him up in holiness and righteousness thereby building the church here on earth - **Acts 20:32**)

Rom 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. **Vr.16** So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Whosoever God sheweth mercy on and hath compassion upon He giveth of His grace as it were. If God hardeneth your heart due to your continual obstinacy, rebellious and disobedient nature in the face of His longsuffering and forbearance then you cannot be a candidate of His grace at all. A repentant sinner that God shows mercy on, He justifies and he that is justified by God shall receive grace from Him thereafter. **Rom 9:17-18; Lk 18:9-14; Rom 8:29-30**

HOW TO GAIN ACCESS TO GRACE?

There is a permeating presence of grace in the word of God (the scriptures) and the testimony of Jesus.

This is what makes God's word able to effect godly changes in our lives- **Acts 20:32**- "the word of His grace, which is able".

The Testimony of Jesus is "the word of his grace". We cannot follow Jesus (effectively) by grace apart from regularly hearing and understanding to do of the word and deeds of his grace in the Spirit. The natural tilt of human beings (the flesh) is toward human works and law performance. But to follow/walk with the Lord it is by grace not by our strength/ability. By grace ye stand- **Rom 5:2**

For the gospel that we preach is the gospel of the Grace of God revealed unto us in Christ Jesus. **Acts 20:24**

Grace is found and obtainable in the word of God through the Spirit of truth for all those consciously seeking for it in order for them to do the will of God. **Mtt 6:33; Jn 7:37-39; Ps 40:8; Ps 143:10**

Jn 1:11-13 (Vr.12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

For you to get the "grace" of God you need to do some things. And what are those things? You need to acknowledge that you are a sinner and humbly ask for God's mercy, confess your sins, repent of your sins, forsake your sins and then by faith identify with the finished work of Christ upon the cross on your behalf through baptism. **Acts 2:37-42; Mk 16:15-16; Mtt 21:28-32; Acts 3:17-21; Jn 9:39-41**

1 Pet 5:5 "for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble".

Grace is an integral part of the doing of the Word that you believe in and accept by faith. **You access grace through faith.**

Rom 5:2 "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand"

Note, you cannot access this grace except through faith. So faith precedes grace. Which faith? The faith that is gotten through belief in the death and resurrection of Christ for the repentance and remission of sins in his name, this is how you access grace truly. The Apostles of Christ could not access this grace until they were made witnesses of this truth at the appearing of the Lord unto them after his resurrection from the dead, as it were.

Lk 24:46-49 (Vr.48) Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Vr.47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power (grace) after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and (by this grace) ye shall be witnesses unto me.

Mk 16:15-18 (Vr.15 Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **Vr.16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, (How?) according to the riches of his grace: **Vr.13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. **Vr.14** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.

THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS

The Father bestowed upon the Son His Grace whereas the Son bestows upon us his own grace. Both are meant for doing work whichever way. The Father is the God of all grace- **I Pet 5:10; Jn 14:17,23**

The Grace of God was upon Christ (**Lk 2:40**) by which he was able to do the work (**Jn 14:10; 2 Cor 5:19**) that the Father sent him on earth to do. He finished the work the Father sent him to do on the Cross of Calvary (**Jn 17:4; Jn 19:30**). Thereafter he obtained from the Father the grace that he releases upon those that believe and receive his Spirit in order to follow his example and do the works he sent them to do on his behalf, even as he did the on the Father's behalf on earth at his first advent. **Jn 20:21-23; Jn 5:19-20; Jn 15:5; Jn 14:10-12; Mk 16:15-20**

From the moment the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us, grace and truth from the Father was made available for the Son to operate with. Similarly, from the moment that we are justified, grace and truth from the Son is made available to us for salvation and to live and walk therein till the end. **Jn 1:12,14**

Christ received the Grace of the Father in order to do the will of His Father. We receive the grace of Christ in order to obey/do his commandments. It is by the grace of God that Christ overcame and it is by Christ's grace upon us that we shall also overcome. **Jn 4:34; Jn 8:28-29; Jn 16:33**

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The grace of God brings you into the grace of Christ. How? the grace of God grants you forgiveness and remission of your sins through the blood of Jesus Christ offered as a Lamb without blemish unto Him for the propitiation of our sins (**Isa 53:1-12; Rom 3:24-26**), while the grace of Christ enables you to receive the promised gift, the Holy Ghost and power, by which you live righteously doing good till the end as it were. **Acts 2:37-39; Mtt 3:11; Jn 3:3,5-8; Mtt 11:25-27**

Jn 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. **Vr.44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him (by His grace); and I will raise him up (by my grace) at the last day. **Vr.45** It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God (by His grace). Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father (that hath received of His grace), cometh unto me (in order to receive my grace) **Vr.64** But there are some of you that believe not. **Vr.65** Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father (no man cometh into my grace except he has received of the grace of my Father)

Until you receive the mercy of God you cannot receive of His grace. Without mercy you cannot access grace. Therefore seek His mercy and His grace shall avail unto you. **Hebr 4:16**

The Father gave grace to the Son by which he was able to endure the sufferings on the earth- the passion of the cross, while the Son gives us grace in order for us to endure tribulations till the end. And that is why it is by grace that ye are saved. **Jn 15:18-21; Mtt 24:8-13**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ unto us here is the strength of God made available unto us from within, in such a measure that we can handle and work with outwardly, at any moment in time in order to do His will here on earth even under sufferings, tribulations and afflictions unto death for Christ sake. Those that do not have grace shall seek to save their live by denying Christ in the face of the threat of death during sufferings as it were. **Mtt 10:28-33; Jn 12:25-26; Lk 17:33; I Cor 10:12-13; 2 Cor 12:9**

Eph 4:6-7 (Vr.7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

By the grace of God, Christ was saved and raised from the dead, while we shall by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be saved and raised from the dead unto everlasting life on the last day also. **Hebr 5:7-9; Jn 5:19-22; Jn 6:39-40**

GRACE IS FOR LABOURING IN THE FAITH

I Pet 4:10 As every man hath received the gift even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **Vr. 11** If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as if the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Grace is the ability from God bestowed on the sons of God by which they are to operate the gifts of the Spirit unto the edification of the body of Christ as a whole; who will give account of how they utilized it at the end of the day even as faithful stewards. Eph 3:7; I Cor 4:1-2; 2 Cor 6:1; Jn 1:12; I Cor 12:4-14; 2 Cor 13:10

If Grace was just “unmerited favour” then you do not need to bother to give strict account of it at the end, and how you laboured with it; but now we have to labour with it so that it would not be in vain in our lives and give account at the end. Many are sitting lazily upon the grace of God thereby causing it to be in vain in their lives because they say it is favour without work. This is a lie and ought not to be so. Grace is not favour without labour rather it is labour done by faith that has an eternal reward at the end. Let no man deceive you otherwise. **Mtt 25:14-30; Lk 12:47-48; 2 Cor 9:8; Rom 14:12**

For grace is not of yourselves, and not of your power/ability (lest any man should boast) nor is it of the works of the law but it is of God, the work of faith. Christ working in and through you, that is grace. You were created a new creature by the workings of this grace and expected to operate this grace thereof throughout your new life in Christ. **Eph 2:8-10; Colo 1:27; Jn 9:4; Jn 4:34-38**

God is a worker and for you to be a co-labourer (or worker) with God, then you need to have the grace that He bestows upon such persons. **Jn 5:17; Jn 9:4; Jn 4:34-38**

1 Cor 3:8-10 (Vr. 9 For we are labourers together with God: **Vr. 10** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder

2 Cor 5:9-10 (Vr. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. **Vr. 10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2 Cor 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

QUESTION: How do you receive the grace of God in vain? By not working/labouring for God with the grace that has been bestowed upon you.

Eph 3:7- I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.

Phil 2:12-13 Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (How? By Grace as defined in) **Vr. 13** For it is **God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.**

Col 1:29 Where unto I also labour, striving according to His working (His grace) which worketh in me mightily.

The Holy Spirit ministers grace to us from God. **Grace is the (Holy Spirit-enabled) power flowing out from the throne of God towards saved men to enable them to live and accomplish the will of God in holiness and righteousness.** With the coming of the Holy Ghost came abundance of Grace. The Holy Ghost supplies grace to those that have him indwelling in order that they might overcome, conquer and endure in the faith till the end. **Mtt 24:13; Rev 2:7**

1 Tim 6:11-12 (Vr. 12 Fight the good fight of faith (by grace), lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

God's grace is the oil in our lives that enables us to do what God wants us to do; His Grace helps us in life without which we can do nothing. Grace is of the Spirit even as truth is of the Spirit and all these came to be as a result of the coming of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Grace. When it is of Grace then it is not of flesh, so that no flesh can glory in the sight of God. Those that boast of how their arm/wisdom have gotten them victory, wealth and possessions in life do not have grace. **Jn 1:17; Heb 10:29; Jn 16:13; Jn 15:5; Jam 4:13-16; Deu 8:6-19; Mtt 25:1-13**

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Col 1:29 where unto I also labour striving according to His workings which worketh in me mightily. (grace-enabled labour)

Eph 1:11 being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. (grace-work)

Grace is also meant to strengthen you to be able to go through what is set before you to do by God. Grace is meant to make you perfect, stablished, strengthened and settled. Jesus is our perfect example of this.
1 Pet 5:10; Hebr 12:1-4

1Cor 15: 10 I laboured more abundantly than they yet not I (or self work) but the grace of God which was with me (grace work).

Rom 1:5 By whom we have received grace (for what?) for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.

We, as Christians, are involved in both spiritual warfare that is of a lifetime nature, without break, as soldiers of Christ and also in a heavenly race that is marathon in nature and not a short dash sort. You compulsorily, require divine push cum strengthen to be able to make it to the finish line and fight to the finish, because your own human strength shall definitely fail you along the way cum mid way, as it were, that is where Grace comes in. I
Cor 9:24-27

2 Tim 2:1-7 (**Vr. 1** Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **Vr. 3** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **Vr. 5** And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned except he strive lawfully. **Vr. 6** The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. (it is only by grace that this is made possible)

Ecc 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; (but it is by the mercy and grace of God)

DISTINCTION BETWEEN FAVOUR AND GRACE

The definition of grace as merely "unmerited favour" is a subtlety of our time that has blinded men from having a clear-cut understanding of the true meaning of the grace that is by Jesus Christ required for our eternal salvation, the salvation of our soul rather than that of the body cum flesh. Men are made to be chasing shadows by this misleading CAO definition of grace till death. We shall as much as possible establish the interrelationship between grace and favour in order to eliminate the ambiguity tied to them as it obtains today in the CAO

Favour is not grace rather favour precedes grace. Whosoever the Lord favours He grants grace to do those things that are pleasing unto Him. When a man diligently seek good he would procure favour from God, who would then give him grace in order to do that good things so that God might be glorified and not flesh or the arm of flesh as it were. **Prov 11:27; Jn 15:7-8; 1 Cor 1:27-31**

Man can show favour to the wicked but God does not neither does He give him grace. Why? because favour is found amongst the righteous and wrath amongst the wicked. **Prov 14:9; Jn 3:36; Isa 26:9-10**

Isa 60:10 - For in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on them.

Ps 102:13 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion; for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

Hebr 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

In the favour of God is found mercy and in the mercy of God is found grace. Grace is the good works that those that have obtained mercy are empowered to do having found favour in God's sight as it were. The product or fruit of the favour of God in a man's life is the good works or deeds that he produces by grace, walking in obedience to the commandments of God and His Christ.

Lk 1: 27-30 (Vr 28 And the angel came in unto her and said, Hail thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. **Vr 30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not Mary for thou hast found favour with God.

Vr. 35 - And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: (the coming of grace upon Mary prophesied here) therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the son of God.

Mary having found favour with God was granted grace as it were to conceive without knowing any man and also to go through the initial humiliating attempt by Joseph to put her away privily having thought that she had played the whore. It was grace that enabled Joseph not to sleep or lie with her until she had brought forth Jesus. It was grace that saw them through these trying times and God's favour and grace shall see you through also in your travails in Jesus name. Amen. **Mtt 1:18-25**

CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, many today as Believers abuse the liberty that grace confers, using it as an excuse to continue in sin saying that grace would always abound, but this is a dangerous trend. (**Rom 6:1-2**). Some others use grace as an excuse for complacency, slothfulness and laziness whereas grace is given for you to labour doing the work of God the way that He wants it to be done not your own way. **2 Cor 6:1; Jude 1:3-4**

Titus 2:11-12- The grace of God teaches us thus:

To forsake, abandon, deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, so that we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present (corrupt) world. Also helps us to patiently wait, looking forward for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grace enables us to go through sufferings and persecutions or tribulations for choosing to live a godly life in this evil world. To live a life of holiness unto which we have been called and not uncleanness. Without this grace we would definitely fall without remedy. We need grace to finish well. **1 Thess 4:7; Jn 16:33; 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Pet 3:13-18; 1 Cor 10:12-13; 2 Cor 8:6-7; Hebr 4:16**

When Christ encountered the young rich ruler in **Mk 10:17-22, 23-27** he had already been working for God by strict adherence to the tenets of the law, while clinging unto and trusting in his riches to render the service well (even as was obtainable in the O.T. times of carnal sacrifices and burnt offerings), but when Christ told him the true way of getting eternal life, that it had to be by grace (the N.T. way), which required his disposing of all his worldly possessions in order to trust in Christ wholly and follow him in obedience, he turned back and could not. Why? Because of the abundance of the things which he possessed. Unfortunately, many are still being taught by the CAO today to seek material prosperity first by all means in order to serve God like this young rich ruler in vain, rather than by the way Christ asked him to, simply by grace, in spirit and in truth and not by accumulating worldly possessions but trusting in the Lord to provide your daily bread and meet your needs along the way. **Mk 10:28-30; Lk 12:25-26; Mtt 16:36-39; Mtt 6:11; Lk 9:57-62**

Similarly, when Christ was at the temple in **Lk 21:1-5** and observed how the rich men proudly gave in the temple out of the abundance of their riches in which they trusted to procure favour with God, he made preference for a poor widow that gave out of grace from her penury. Christ taught us in **Lk 12:15** "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth". But still the CAO hardheartedly teach and practice otherwise by peddling the gospel of worldly prosperity as the means to serve God well, wherein many have made a shipwreck of their faith pursuing such these last days. **Lk 12:16-21; Lk 16:13-15; I Tim 6:5; Acts 17:24-25**

We shall not have any excuse to give on the judgment day as per why we did not effectively utilize the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to do the will of our heavenly Father here on earth as it is done in heaven. It is time for you to awaken from your slumber and work by grace. **Eph 4:6-7; 2 Cor 6:1; I Cor 15:10; Rom 14:12**

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. **MARANATHA.**